

The Common Thread QUILT GUILD

NEWSLETTER

January 2009

President's Message

Catherine Patterson

Happy New Year to you all! Hope the Holiday Season was good to you. Hands up those who did not give anyone a gift of the quilted variety this year I thought so, I haven't had one of those Christmases for a long time either and even then there was always a 'made for you with love' gift of some variety. It is the only activity that gets me any Christmas spirit at all.

I want to use this 'message from the President' to run an idea by you for the few who might be interested. It was suggested to me that some of our more prolific sewers might like a commercial outlet for their product and, although I imagine the numbers are not high, I thought it might be a value added 'club benefit' for some.

One possibility would be that a group could share a table at the Gloucester Craft Guild Craft Shows. There are two each year, often at Lester B

Pearson High. The table could be promoted by the CTQG and would serve the additional purpose of advertising the guild.

Another possibility would be that a group could have a table at our own quilt show. This would have to be presented to the show committee which has yet to step forward (not too soon for people to start thinking about that). But first I would have to know there was an interest.

You can address your comments to me at the address found under 'About Us' then 'Executive Information'.

See you all soon. I guess we're all ready for some quilting entertainment after missing the December meeting.

Next Meeting
January 13, 2009

Programme

Janet Hope

Rive Designs speak on
Fabric Art.

SHOP OF THE MONTH
Quilty Pleasures

FAT QUARTERS THEME
Professions

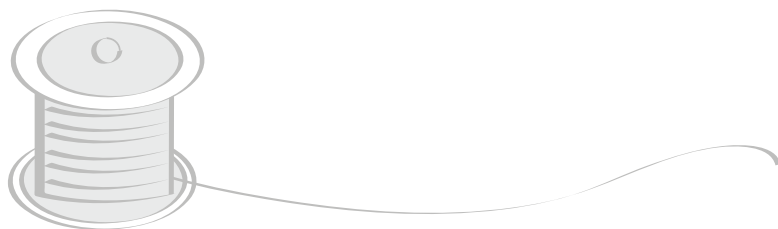
IN THIS ISSUE

► Announcements	2
► Musing About Quilting	3
► Community Projects	5
► Retreats	7
► Questionnaire	9

Executive Team

President	Catherine Patterson
Past President	Cathy Sheldrick
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Treasurer	Catherine Parkinson
Secretary	Jane Maddin
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Workshops	Sylvie Proulx
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Membership	Pauline McNally Wendy Warren
Retreats	Barbara Till
Newsletter	Sylvia Gilfix
Challenge	Yvette Lessard
Webmaster	Sylvia Gilfix
Community Projects	Victoria Van der Linden

To reach members of the executive write to info@commonthread.on.ca



Announcements

Please Complete the Survey

At the end of the newsletter you will find a questionnaire from the guild executive. You will be asked to complete it at the next meeting but if you want to be ahead of the game, just print it and complete it now.

Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard

We will be picking up toiletries again this month because our last meeting was cancelled due to the storm.



In Case of Storm

Just to let you know that next time the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, the information will be on the home page of our website. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact someone who does.

Guild Pins

A reminder that the new design guild pins are available at the sign-in desk for \$5.00.

Upcoming Events

The Kawartha Quiltmakers' Guild will be holding a quilt show and sale May 8 to 10, 2009. The show will be held at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road in Peterborough. For more info check www.KawarthaQuiltmakersGuild.ca.

The Region of York Quilters Guild is presenting its 9th Quilt Show "Works of HeARTS" at the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place, 474 Davis Dr. Newmarket, Ontario. The show runs from Saturday April 18, 2009 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm to Sunday April 19, 2009 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information go to www.regionofyorkquiltersguild.ca

Quilt Musings for January

Jane Maddin

Do you have a pile of UFOs? Do you have theories about why you haven't finished things?

I have a couple of friends who have started quilts and then decided that they didn't like them. When they got them out (and these are separate occasions in different cities) they were both surprised to discover that they had forgotten how nice their quilts were. My theory is that they decided they didn't like them, because they were not sure they were doing a good enough job quilting them - they weren't going to be perfect when they were done. (Or because they were taking longer than they expected and they didn't think they were ever going to finish them.)

I can't remember who said it first (it certainly didn't originate with me - nor did I invent the saying independently) but I kind of think that I may have taken a saying someone used in a different context and applied it to quilting.

The saying is: "Better finished than perfect!"

I have watched people pick out piecing (mostly sewn on the bias) because the points weren't perfect. And I've watched people take out quilting that they only person who would possibly criticize it would be themselves. I used to paint, and I've watched people remove or paint over perfectly good work, because it wasn't perfect enough.

I'm pretty much a 'Good Enough!' Girl myself. This is fuelled by a desire to finish my project AND a

real and true dislike of Reverse Sewing. If you haven't heard this phrase before, think about it a sec - it'll come to you!

I have to say that this can backfire on you. I spent two hours quilting a quilt that was slowly getting more and more cock-eyed (the backing had shifted) and I subsequently spent fourteen hours UN-quilting the same quilt over the weekend, only to then re-quilt. (I'm happy with the final result, but I wish I hadn't announced that it would be 'good-enough' when someone suggested that I wouldn't be happy. Shirley was right!)

However, this December I took the "Better finished than Perfect!" to extremes. I had made a lovely eight pointed Christmas Table Topper to sit my small Christmas tree on. At least, I got the top pieced, and I invited my Book Club over for our Christmas party. There simply wasn't enough time to get the darned thing quilted and bound. And the tree looked so forlorn on the bare coffee table. So in desperation I got the unfinished quilt top and put it on the table, and put the tree on it.

My new motto: Better used than finished (or perfect)!

It isn't as catchy as the other motto, but it appeared to work. I might add, the next day, I sandwiched, quilted and bound the table topper and then put it back under the tree, where it looks lovely!

Yours in Quilting, the certainly NEVER perfect, Jane Maddin



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full of quilting, you won't have
to dust them.

Community Projects

Victoria Van der Linden

Community Projects Committee: Victoria Van der Linden, Catherine Senecal, and Barb Donaldson

How does the committee work? You can sign out a bag of donated fabric to sew into a top or finished quilt; or a quilt top to be quilted; or donate a quilt; or donate fabric and batting—come see us for details.

Want to try out your machine quilting skills? Visit our table at the right of the stage to join in finishing our many quilt tops for the following charities:

- 1) The Common Thread Quilt Guild collects monthly donations of Cuddle Quilts for use on the isolettes at the General Campus. The tiny at-risk babies look less clinical in their quilt-covered bed, and the families take the quilts home. Barb Donaldson can tell you more about sizes, can show you patterns, and can give you donated fabrics.

Thank you to everyone who made a special effort to bring the Christmas Cuddle Quilts to Barb Donaldson and Janice Namiesniowski. Forty-six Cuddle Quilts were delivered in December.

- 2) We support the Victims of Violence outreach program with young child/teen/adult themed Comfort Quilts (40" x 60").

Fourteen Comfort Quilts were delivered in December.

- 3) We support the St. Mary's Community Outreach Centre with baby/child themed quilts (anything from 30" x 40" to 40" x 60"). The young mothers benefit from counseling and instruction. *The next delivery will be after the January meeting. Got baby quilts?*

FREE PATTERNS: the pattern booklet is available from Barb Donaldson.

New for 2009

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre, 12 Stirling Avenue, Ottawa has made a request that we consider providing comfort quilts for distribution to their elderly clients. They would given at an Elder Appreciation ceremony in June.

"The target group is often isolated, contends with declining health, and lives on fixed incomes. As with most non-profit social service agencies, budgets are restrictive; subsequently, any effort to enhance the quality of life for the clients is always appreciated. Through providing the little extras, we are hopeful the recipients continue to know they are cared for and thought of beyond the mandate of a program—all of which is made possible through the assistance of volunteers who "step up to the plate" and offer support."

Marge Lanigan

Coordinator-Life Long Care Program

Some special design elements need to be considered. If you are interested in participating in this new outreach opportunity, come to the Community Projects table before the meeting, or during the break, to speak to Victoria VanderLinden.



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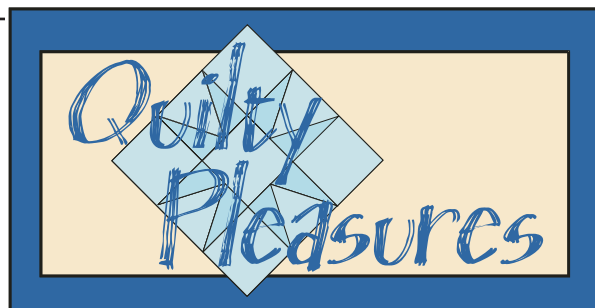
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Community Projects

(continued)

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 2500TH CUDDLE QUILT!

As reported last month, the Guild has sent over 2500 Cuddle Quilts to the Intensive Care Nursery of the Ottawa General Hospital since 1997. In January, we will present a token of our thanks to the 15 quilters who turned in quilts the month that #2500 arrived.

AND HERE IS ONE FOR YOU

We appreciate the work that you do for our community projects, whatever you may do to help the cause. To thank all of you for your support in our tradition of giving, we will be awarding a finished 40" x 60" whole cloth quilt to one lucky member of the Guild. It was made of donated fabrics, partially hand quilted at the Quilt Show 2008, and finished by committee member Catherine Senecal. It is perfect for a special chair, or a special child, or as a donation to your favourite charity's Silent Auction table. Be sure to sign in at the January meeting!

Retreats

Barb Till

Common Thread Spring 2009 In-town Retreat

Place:

Notre-Dame-des-Champs Community Centre
3659 Navan Rd.

Date and Times:

Fri., Mar 6 15:00-22:00
Sat., Mar 7 09:00-22:00
Sun., Mar 8 09:00-20:00

Cost: \$50.00

Tentative Menu		
Friday March 6th	Dinner	Baked Ham Scalloped Potatoes Mixed Greens Salad
Saturday March 7th	Morning snack	Yogurt Fresh Fruit Muffins
	Lunch	Cold cuts and cheeses Bread rolls Vegetable platter Cookies
	Dinner	Meat Lasagna Vegetable Lasagna Salad
Sunday March 8th	Morning snack	Yogurt Fresh Fruit Muffins
	Lunch	Quiche (variety) Any left-overs Cookies
	Dinner	TBA – if people want to stay until the bitter end.
I will be at the back of the room next meeting with the sign-up sheet.		

Questionnaire 2009

Membership in the Common Thread Quilt Guild gives you a monthly program, a library, retreats, fun clubs such as Row Robin and Fat Quarter Club, Shop of the Month, shopping trips, door prizes, an outlet for charitable giving, and Bring and Brag plus a quilt show every two years. The Board would like to give you value added activities, and we need to know what appeals to you. Please help us to focus our energy and your money by responding to the following questions:

1. High profile speakers like to teach when they travel to speak. Our meeting is on Tuesday night which means that a speaker of note would likely have to teach on a weekday. Could you attend a weekday workshop taught by a high profile speaker?
 - ☐ Yes, I could make arrangements to attend on a weekday if the speaker interested me
 - ☐ No, I would not be able to attend on a weekday no matter who taught
 - ☐ No, I do not attend workshops
 - ☐ Yes, I would attend, but only if _____ was the teacher.
2. Kathy K. Wylie is a prominent Canadian quilter (kathykwylie.com) with a newly printed book, CQA award winning quilts, and interesting appliqué and piecing techniques. She will be visiting us in March and is available for a workshop.
 - ☐ Yes, I have heard of her
 - ☐ No, I have not heard of her
 - ☐ I would be interested in her appliqué workshop on a ☐ weekday ☐ Saturday [check one]
 - ☐ I would be interested in her piecing workshop on a ☐ weekday ☐ Saturday [check one]
3. Socializing with other quilters is another benefit of guild membership. Would you like to attend a year-end banquet?

When: on a Tuesday night in May—NOT a Guild night.
Where: TBA depending on numbers. NOT the MIFO Centre
What: dinner with cash bar, music and prizes.
Who: guild members and paying guests
Cost: free to guild members.
Estimated cost: budget \$5000.00

 - ☐ Yes, I would attend a year-end banquet
 - ☐ No, I would not attend a year-end banquet, but I would encourage others to enjoy it
 - ☐ No, and I would object to Guild money being spent on this social event
4. Does the following statement reflect your opinion of the Guild?

I enjoy coming to the monthly meetings and participating in what is offered then. You do not have to do anything value-added to make me happier.

 - ☐ Yes, the Board is doing a good job and I don't ask for more
 - ☐ Yes, but I would also like to see _____

ADD COMMENTS ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM